

ENVIRONMENTAL HEARINGS OFFICE

Minutes of Meeting December 8, 2009 9:00 a.m.

The December 2009 meeting was called to order by Chair Andrea McNamara Doyle in the Boards' office in Lacey, Washington. Present were Chair Andrea McNamara Doyle, Board Member Kathy Mix and Administrative Appeals Judges Kay Brown and Phyllis Macleod, Administrative Manager Robyn Bryant, Hearings Coordinator Debbie Joblonski, and Administrative Secretary Janet Buechler. Minutes of the November 10, 2009 meetings were read and approved as corrected.

Handouts were distributed for review which included the pollution, shoreline, forest practice, hydraulic, and environmental and land use appeals filed, a brief summary of all cases that have closed and the Case Statistics Report.

Case Reports

The statistical reports handouts were reviewed and discussed. Key aspects of the reports were noted for future discussion.

Appellate Update

Chair Andrea McNamara Doyle reported that there were no new superior court appeals received since the November 2009 meeting.

Superior Court Action

Andrea reported that a lawsuit has been filed against the Shorelines Hearings Board in Chelan County. It is one of three separate suits against state agencies concerning the same subject matter. The Attorney General's office through EHO's Assistant Attorney General has appeared on the Board's behalf.

Financial Update

The Governor's FY 2010 Supplemental Budget is scheduled for release on December 9, 2009. More information will follow next month.

Natural Resources Reform Group

Kathy Mix discussed the progress of the Natural Resources Reform Committee. Steps are being taken by the Committee to move forward on drafting the large reform bill concerning the Environmental Hearings Office and the Growth Management Hearings Board.

Administrative Issues

Andrea reported that edits are still being made on the form letters/auto text entries. Once the edits are complete, the group will meet again to finalize and distribute the forms.

Robyn reported that the Department of Personnel is encouraging small agencies to opt out of receiving paper pay stubs, but rather logging on to the Department of Personnel website to view the information electronically. All EHO employees agree that they would not wish to participate until certain problems with the website are resolved.

Robyn explained the ballots recently e-mailed to all EHO employees regarding the Voluntary Employee's Beneficiary Association Medical Expense Plan (VEBA-MEP). Ballots are to be mailed back to Department of Personnel by December 15th.

Meeting adjourned.

Janet Buechler
Administrative Secretary